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DARTFORD

Rural District Council of Dartford



ANNUAL REPORT

ON CERTAIN MATTERS
CONCERNING

Public Health

FOR THE YEAR

1954

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARTFORD.

Annual Report for 1954 on certain matters
concerning Public Health.

May, 1956.

To THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARTFORD.

Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to summarise and comment on the information which comes my way in my annual attempt to review a year's health experience of the people of Dartford Rural District.

PREVIOUS REPORTS. Accounts of the limitations of these reports, method of social classification, social conditions of the district, water supplies and drainage, treatment and personal health services, age distribution of population, and a glossary have been given in previous reports and will not be repeated here.

POPULATION. The estimated mid-year home population increased by 500 on the previous year, thereby maintaining the upward trend of post-war years. Changes in the population are due to the natural increase, i.e. excess of births over deaths, and immigration, both being related to new houses built. The following table may therefore be of interest:-

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Est.mid-year home population	35,640	36,150	35,890	36,870	37,520	38,250	38,610	39,110
Increase on previous year	940	510	-	260	980	650	730	360
Natural increase	361	289	244	211	149	143	187	170
Immigration	579	221	-	504	769	501	587	173
Houses built	147	168	173	353	223	231	439	573

* Including 69, 31 and 35 houses built by Dartford Borough in 1950, 1951 and 1954 respectively.

BIRTHS. There were 47 more births than in the previous year and the birth rate showed an increase :-

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Births	752	631	565	545	576	514	539	586
Birth rate	21.9	18.3	16.6	15.5	16.1	13.9	14.0	15.0
Birth rate (England and Wales)	20.5	17.8	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2

Of the 586 births, 534 were registered with the Local Registrars in Dartford and from these 534 the following classification has been obtained:-

Percentage:

Born at home	163	31%
Born in hospital	371	69%
	<u>534</u>	<u>100%</u>

In Bexley, Crayford, Erith, Dartford Borough and Rural District i.e. Area 6 of the Local Health Authority, the percentages given by the County Medical Officer of Health have been :-

	1951	1952	1953	1954
Born at home	23%	22%	20%	21%
Born in hospital	77%	78%	80%	79%

Riseley Maternity Hospital in Dartford Rural District was closed down at the end of October, 1954. The number of infants born in hospitals serving the Dartford Rural District and other areas is also seen in the following figures taken from Annual Reports of the Dartford Hospitals Group :-

	West Hill Hosp.	Livingstone Hosp.	Riseley Mat.Hosp.	Total
July 1950/1951	1,008	356	119	1,483.
July 1951/1952	995	341	134	1,470.
July 1952/1953	1,185	315	161	1,661.
July 1953/1954	1,235	320	141	1,696.
July 1954/1955	1,244.	333	49	1,626.

SOCIAL CLASSIFICATION OF BIRTHS. In the past, births registered locally have been classified here but for 1954 and henceforth the Registrar General has kindly agreed to undertake this task for us and from 1955 onwards will classify all our births and not just those registered locally.

I have asked for this classification to enable us to measure the contribution being made to the future population by each social class. Broadly speaking the community divides itself into two sections. One of these harnesses the urge to reproduce by creating a house and then a family. The other section creates a family and then a house. How much of the future population should be recruited from each section is a question which no-one would like to answer. Nevertheless, wisely or not it is being answered through administrative policies concerning housing and up to recently the Council has had thereby a powerful influence on the choice of the characteristics from which the future population is being drawn.

The year 1954, however, witnessed the lessening of the scope of the Council's choice as housing began to move into the influence of private enterprise. There began to arrive in this district those with the habit of self-dependence who had postponed their families until they could provide themselves with a house and the future figures for social classification may give us an idea of how this change in housing administration will affect the trend in the social class pattern of the births in this district.

At this stage it is desirable to summarise our past classification and this is done in the following table in which the percentage of births attributable to the five social classes is compared with the percentage of these classes in the living population and with the percentage of those departing from the population by death :-

<u>Class</u>	<u>Births 1951-1953 (Registered locally)</u>	<u>Percent.</u>	<u>Males aged 15+. Census 1951. Percent.</u>	<u>Deaths 1951-1953</u>	<u>Percent.</u>
I Professional Occupations	36	2.6	3.0	44	3.4
II Intermediate Occupations	159	11.7	14.4	190	16.8
III Skilled Occupations	721	52.8	46.1	393	35.4
IV Partly skilled Occupations	311	22.8	20.4	301	27.0
V Unskilled Occupations	138	10.1	16.1	196	17.4
	<u>1,365</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>1,124</u>	<u>100.0</u>

In the year 1954, the social classification of births registered locally was as follows :-

<u>Social Class</u>	<u>Legitimate births by social class of father</u>	<u>Illegitimate births by social class of mother</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent.</u>
I	31	-	31	6%
II	76	-	76	14%
III	244	4	248	46%
IV	81	2	83	16%
V	93	1	94	18%
Not stated	1	1	2	0%
	<u>526</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>534</u>	<u>100%</u>

DEATHS. In former years the only deaths in Stone House and Darent Park Mental Hospitals allotted to Dartford Rural District were those whose home addresses were either in Dartford or were unknown. In the year 1952, the number allotted was 9. For the year 1953 a change in practice was begun and all deaths of patients in these hospitals were thenceforth allotted to Dartford Rural District. The increase which is not allowed for in the comparability factor has to be separated from our total if we are to follow the trend of deaths in the rural district population. Taking the average quarterly figure for deaths in Stone House and Darent Park allotted to Dartford Rural District prior to 1953 as 2, the following adjustment can be made :-

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Year 1954
Total deaths allotted to Rural District by Reg.Gen.	130	89	89	108	416
Less deaths in Mental hospitals	17	6	4	17	44
Deaths excluding mental hospitals	113	83	85	91	372
Add	2	2	2	2	2
Dartford Rural District deaths by pre-1953 method of allotting deaths:	115.	85.	87.	93.	380.

Annual Deaths

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Deaths (pre-1953 method of allotting deaths)	391	342	321	334	427	371	352	380
Death Rate (and adjusted by comparability factor)	10.9	9.5	9.0	9.2	11.4	9.7	9.0	9.6
Death rate (England and Wales)	12.3	11.0	11.8	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3

Quarterly number of deaths (pre-1953 method of allotting deaths) :-

Year	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total
1949	95	91	70	65	321
1950	101	76	89	68	334
1951	144	96	90	97	427
1952	118	81	60	112	371
1953	124	76	66	86	352
1954	115	85	87	93	380

Quarterly death rates (pre-1953 method of allotting deaths) :-

Dartford Rural District -

Year	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Year
1950	11.0	8.2	9.7	7.4	9.2
1951	15.3	10.2	9.6	10.3	11.4
1952	12.3	8.5	6.3	11.7	9.7
1953	12.9	7.8	6.6	8.8	9.0
1954	11.7	8.7	8.9	9.5	9.7

England and Wales -

Year	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Year
1950	14.0	11.1	9.3	12.3	11.6
1951	19.1	11.1	9.1	11.0	12.5
1952	13.4	10.6	8.9	12.4	11.6
1953	15.8	10.5	8.9	10.7	11.4
1954	14.0	10.6	9.3	11.4	11.3

The deaths at the ages of 65 and over, and 75 and over, were as follows :-

		65 and over:	75 and over:
1950	...	229 (69%)	145 (45%)
1951	...	278 (65%)	161 (38%)
1952	...	263 (71%)	161 (44%)
1953 *	...	260 (66%)	175 (44%)
1954 *	...	267 (64%)	164 (39%)

* Including Stone House and Darenth Park.

The deaths in hospital and at home were :-

	All ages:		75 and over:	
	Hospital.	Home.	Hospital.	Home.
1950	126	207
1951	175	252
1952	171	200
1953 *	176	219
1954 *	225	191

* Including Stone House and Darent Park.

The social class of deaths, including Stone House and Darent Park, was :-

	1954	%
Class I	...	16 4%
Class II	...	66 16%
Class III	...	156 38%
Class IV	...	79 19%
Class V	...	68 16%
Unclassified	...	<u>31</u> 7%
	<u>416</u>	<u>100%</u>

CAUSES OF DEATH. The causes of death may be summarised :-

	1953*	%	1954 *	%
All causes	395	100%	416	100%
Main causes	322	82%	327	79%
Other causes	73	18%	89	21%
(440-468) Diseases of circulatory system	152	39%	163	39%
(140-205) Cancer, including Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia and aleukaemia	64	16%	88	22%
(330-334) Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	47	12%	47	11%
(470-527) Diseases of respiratory system	59	15%	29	7%

* Including Stone House and Darent Park.

CORONARY DISEASE. There were 53 deaths from this cause in 1954 and of these two occurred in the mental hospitals. One death was under 45 years of age. Five deaths occurred in Social Class V and fifteen in Social Classes I and II. This is the same pattern as that shown by coronary disease in 1953 and contains the known bias towards Social Classes I and II. The death rate in 1954 was 1.35 per thousand population compared with 1.51 for England and Wales and 1.50 for London.

CANCER OF THE LUNG. This caused 24 deaths in 1954 compared with 11, 11, 8, in 1951, 52 and 53 respectively. The death rate in 1954 was 0.61 per thousand population compared with 0.37 for England and Wales and 0.54 for London. None of the 1954 deaths from this cause occurred in mental hospitals so we cannot blame the increase on the changed method of allocating deaths. Nor does it seem likely that all this increase is attributable to the play of chance in spite of the small numbers involved.

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM. This showed a drop from 59 in 1953 to 29 in 1954 and the difference was due to the fact that influenza caused by Virus 'A' occurred in the first quarter of 1953. Four of these deaths occurred in Social Classes I and II and six in Class V and compared with the Social Class distribution of all deaths, these figures contain no social bias.

Respiratory diseases in the first quarter are worth watching -

Deaths in First Quarter:		
	Respiratory diseases.	All causes.
1950	16	101
1951 (influenza)	30	144
1952	13	118
1953 (influenza)	36 *	124 *
1954	14 *	115 *

* According to pre 1953 method of allotting deaths.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS. The three deaths were due to collisions between pedal cyclist and motor-bus (male aged 19), motor-cycle and lorry (male aged 60) and pedestrian with motor-cycle combination (male aged 82).

ALL OTHER ACCIDENTS. Of the 9 deaths allotted to this cause locally, three were due to fractures from falls in the home in elderly widows aged 78, 85 and 83; two were due to fractures from falls in residential accommodation incurred by elderly spinsters aged 88 and 84. The remaining deaths were in males 44 to 67 years and three were at work or on the way from work.

DEATHS RELATING TO WELFARE OF MOTHERS AND INFANTS. There were no deaths due to childbirth. Still births numbered 9, the same as in 1953. The rate was 15.1 compared with 23.4 for England and Wales and 19.8 for London. Deaths under four weeks of age numbered 9 in 1954 compared with 7 in 1953 and all occurred within two days of birth. Prematurity caused 5, atelectasis 2 and congenital defects 2. Deaths over four weeks and under one year numbered 3 compared with none in 1953. The causes were congenital pyloric stenosis (aged one month), meningococcal infection (aged five months) and broncho-pneumonia (aged six months).

The infant mortality rate was 20.6 compared with 25.5 for England and Wales.

DEATHS OF THOSE AGED 75 YEARS AND OVER. As in 1953, mortality in the first quarter is a notable feature of these deaths. Winter and influenza are important environmental adversities of old persons and perhaps the effects may be gauged by the percentage of deaths from respiratory causes which we can call the aged respiratory mortality :-

Deaths aged 75 years and over :-

	Quarters:				1954	%	1953	%
	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.				
All causes	65	31	30	38	164	100%	175	100%
Main causes	53	26	27	35	141	86%	151	86%
Other causes	12	5	3	3	23	14%	24	14%
((440-468) Diseases of circulatory system:	38	14	17	18	87	53%	79	45%
((140-205) Cancer, including Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia and aleukaemia:	5	5	3	8	21	13%	15	9%
((330-334) Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system:	4	5	5	6	20	12%	25	14%
((470-527) Diseases of respiratory system:	6	2	2	3	13	8%	32	18%

	1st Qr.	Year
Aged respiratory mortality 1953 influenza year ...	33%	18%
Aged respiratory mortality 1954 normal year ...	9%	8%

The percentage of deaths due to each cause remains the same in each quarter although the number of deaths in the first quarter is double that of the other quarters. This indicates that some factor is at work in winter which does not appear on death certificates. This factor is feebleness - the inability of the aged to control their own environment. This winter increase in deaths amongst the aged is not nearly so marked amongst those living in the controlled environment (central heating, etc.) of institutional accommodation. One of the reasons for the difficulty of getting a place in the latter is the increased expectancy of life of those admitted.

In Dartford Rural District the deaths in the first quarter were 21% of those of the 3rd quarter and if institutional deaths were excluded, which they are not, the figure would be higher. In Dartford Borough the figure is 152% and this figure does exclude institutional deaths. It may be that the difference in these percentages is an expression of the independence of the aged of the Rural District who are not so ready to make use of the help available from the social services. The following figures kindly supplied to me indicate the difference in use of social services by town and country :-

Hours worked by domestic help service -

Week Ending	Borough: (Population 40,410)	Rural District: (Population 39,110)
14/1/1951 (Virus A influenza)	1,518	534
2/11/1952	1,350	521
8/2/1953 (Virus A influenza)	1,294	797
14/2/1954	1,203	535
18/7/1954	1,300	593
13/2/1955 (Virus B influenza)	1,463	483
10/7/1955	1,291	626

MEASLES. The two-yearly cycle continued but made a late start. It usually spans November to April so that each year normally experiences measles either at the beginning or the end. The disease was due to appear in November but postponed its appearance until January with the result that for the first time since 1941, when the disease was made notifiable, a calendar year contained almost no measles cases.

NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS:

	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.
1949-1950	-	-	1	-	-	-
1950-1951	16	102	67	127	150	78
1951-1952	-	-	-	-	2	3
1952-1953	26	210	284	164	147	61
1953-1954	-	-	-	-	-	-
1954-1955	1.	-	5	4	45	76

The notifications for May, June and July, 1955 were 106, 80 195, the latter figure including a large number of late notifications.

WHOOPING COUGH. The number of notifications shows an increase on the previous years the figures being 50, 155 and 171 for 1952, 1953 and 1954 respectively.

PNEUMONIA. Of the 27 notifications, 7, 1 and 2 occurred in the months of January, February and March respectively.

NOTIFIABLE BOWEL DISEASES. There were five sporadic cases of food infection, all children :-

Two were admitted to hospital from one family and one from another but in neither instance was there bacteriological confirmation of food infection.

A two-year old boy was admitted to hospital with suspected appendicitis and found to be infected with S.typhimurium; the remaining four members of the household showed no bacteriological evidence of infection.

A three-year old child was admitted to hospital with diarrhoea and vomiting and found infected with S.typhimurium; the remaining five members of the household showed no bacteriological evidence of infection.

There was one outbreak :-

An outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting over a period of about four days occurred in October, 1954 amongst the patients and staff at a hospital. Sixteen persons were affected. The general practitioner responsible for the health of the staff considered the afflicted staff to be suffering from food infection and notified them. The resident and consultant medical officers in charge of the patients considered their cases to be "winter vomiting" and therefore not notifiable.

No suspected food was available for bacteriological analysis. No organism likely to cause food "poisoning" was found in the vomits, stools or noses of the afflicted persons or the kitchen staff. The methods of food preparation did not reveal any risk of chemical poisoning. The water supply was wholesome. The hospital was not a modern building and the kitchen was provided with only one water-closet at the end of a corridor and no handbasin being provided there, the washing of hands had to be done at a kitchen sink.

No action appeared to have been taken on the suggestions by the Ministry regarding hygiene in hospital catering departments which were contained in circular B.G.(53) 52, dated 3rd June, 1953.

RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS. Twenty-seven new cases were notified during the year compared with 47 and 53 in 1952 and 1953 respectively. Six cases, having recovered, were removed from the register during 1954.

The number on the register at the end of each year is slowly increasing and as our proximity to the Chest Clinic allows us to keep the register almost up to date, the increase is presumably real although partly due to the increase in the population and partly due to inadequate information on removals from the district and cases who have recovered :-

Number on register -

31st December, 1950	...	248
31st December, 1951	...	265
31st December, 1952	...	287
31st December, 1953	...	328
31st December, 1954	...	408

Of the twenty-seven new cases notified six were notified from Darenth Park. At least 16 of the twenty-seven were regarded as infectious.

One of the infectious cases notified was a contact who had repeatedly declined to come under the observation of the Chest Clinic. When finally he did attend, he was found to be in an advanced state of tuberculosis and presumably he was the origin of the disease in the patient of whom he was a contact. He died from the disease the following year and so did the contact.

Another of the notifications relating to an infectious case was received with apologies after the Council had before them the alternative of taking legal proceedings for the omission of notification by a medical practitioner with whom such omissions are routine.

There were ten deaths from respiratory tuberculosis in 1954, there being eight and ten in 1952 and 1953 respectively. Of these ten deaths, two were not on our register. One of these related to a resident of this district who died from the disease in a London hospital, but no reply was received to an enquiry there about the apparent omission of notification. The other case had extensive tuberculous fibrosis of the lung with excavation but was not regarded as infectious. He had, in fact, been taken off the register in 1951 by another physician.

Four of the cases on the register as respiratory tuberculosis died from other causes. One from bronchitis and one from fibroid lung had no mention of tuberculosis on their death certificates.

NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS. There were 5 notifications in 1954 compared with 6 in 1953.

Three were infected in the kidney, two of which were newcomers but the other, aged 58, was said to have consumed pasteurised milk in this district for ten years previously to notification.

1 was an infection of the womb and had consumed raw undesignated milk in childhood elsewhere.

1, who was an infection in the neck glands, was a customer of a dairy whose milk had been shown to contain tuberculous organisms two years previously. The case was unnotified while in hospital.

2 deaths from non-respiratory tuberculosis were not notified in life.

One of these, aged 70, was from tuberculous peritonitis the diagnosis being confirmed by biopsy, the report being available only after death. For twelve years before death, this patient had lived on tuberculin tested milk. The veterinary surgeon considered the case due to the reawakening of a long-standing infection. The tuberculosis physician did not.

The other death was due to tuberculosis of the kidney in an immigrant from Ireland.

PSITTACOSIS. A breeder of budgerigars, admitted to hospital with chest trouble, showed a positive result to a blood test for psittacosis. He had an aviary with 80 budgerigars in his back garden and one or two birds had died.

A notice detaining the birds was served on the owner, who allowed 5 birds, all seemingly healthy, to be killed and taken to the virus laboratory for culture of the virus. However, no virus appeared on culture and the notice was withdrawn.

Subsequently, a relative who cared for the birds while the breeder was in hospital and the family doctor developed chest trouble and positive results to blood tests for psittacosis. Three members of this family who were symptom free gave positive results to blood tests for psittacosis.

INFECTIVE HEPATITIS. 5 suspected cases occurred in a long-stay hospital.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. Comparison with other areas is provided by the following figures :-

Percentage of those born in 1953 immunised in 1953 or 1954

Dartford Borough	...	73%
Kent A.C.	...	65%
Dartford R.D.	...	62%

Percentage of births of those immunised in 1954 at age of under 1 year

Dartford Borough	...	58%
Dartford R.D.	...	44%
Kent A.C.	...	42%
England and Wales	...	37%

Percentage of children under 15 years immunised in last 5 years

Kent A.C.	...	51%
Dartford Borough	...	50%
Dartford R.D.	...	42%
Ministry's aim	...	75%

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX. Comparison with other areas is provided by the following figures :-

Percentage of those born in 1953 who were vaccinated in 1953 or 1954

Dartford Borough	...	64%
Kent A.C.	...	60%
Dartford R.D.	...	50%

Percentage of births of those vaccinated in 1954 at age of under 1 year

Dartford Borough	...	64%
Kent A.C.	...	60%
Dartford R.D.	...	53%
England and Wales	...	35%

RE-VACCINATION. As in former years, there was almost no re-vaccination of school-children although the Ministry regard this as a necessary routine on entering and again on leaving school.

SMALLPOX CONTACTS. One contact of smallpox minor in Holland returned to this district by air. He and his family were vaccinated and kept under surveillance.

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME. The Dartford group of Hospitals have kindly agreed to include a sub-group for accidents in the home in their records and this now provides us with details of admissions to hospital of these cases from this Rural District. This method of recording was begun on July 1st, 1954, and so we have only the records of the second half of 1954 available :-

Recovered :

- Aged 1 year. Male. Burns involving neck and shoulder. Half a cupful of boiling water spilled over infant's neck while feed being prepared.
- Aged 1 year. Female. Thought to have swallowed Jeyes fluid.
- Aged 2 years. Female. Scald of shoulder and arm. Knocked over hot tea.
- Aged 2 years. Female.) Dexedrine poisoning.
- Aged 3 years. Female.) Convulsions. Dexedrine poisoning.
- Aged 3 years. Female. First degree burns left arm and shoulder from hot water for bath.
- Aged 11 years. Male. Swallowed split pin 1" long. Ultimately passed in stools.
- Aged 14 years. Male. Lost consciousness after fall down wooden steps.
- Aged 16 years. Male. Glass in leg from garden with laceration into joint.

Aged 50 years. Female. Burns from boiling water in epileptic fit.

Aged 52 years. Female. Fell. Compound fracture right tibia and fibula.

Aged 62 years. Female. Swallowed mutton bone which lodged in oesophagus.

Aged 66 years. Female. Slipped in garden. Fractured rib.

Aged 70 years. Female. Injuries following a fall. Epileptic.

Aged 80 years. Female. Fractured neck of left femur. Tripped in kitchenette.

Died:

Aged 78 years. Female. Found unconscious in her home by police after breaking in. Fractured tibia and fibula a week old. Congestive heart failure. (Included above in deaths from all other accidents)

WATER.

Stone House. The 73 hospital samples are mainly the continuation of a survey, mentioned in the Annual Report for 1953, on the supply to Stone House. The water supply to this hospital was provided from a well within its curtilage some 200 feet deep, the water being chlorinated before going into supply. A mains supply was available for use in times of necessity but to open the valve of this supply involved considerable capital expenditure.

The water from the hospital well deteriorated in quality shortly after the flood of January, 1953 and it was assumed that this deterioration was a result of the exceptional flooding conditions. However, the deterioration occurred again in April, 1953 and it was decided that the drains of the hospital should be tested by the Council's Sanitary Inspector. The first drains tested were those of six waterclosets some 40 feet from the hospital well. The water test was used and revealed that the drains were leaking and that the water therein was disappearing into the sub-soil. Shortly after the water test, the well water deteriorated in quality again. The defective drains were thereupon exposed by excavation and repaired. The survey of the drainage system was then continued as opportunity occurred, and it became evident that the system was old and contained gross defects.

The drainage system outside the curtilage of the hospital was also tested by the Council's Sanitary Inspector and 66 houses out of 87 were found to have defective drains. 220 yards from the hospital well there was, and still is, a house the drainage of which discharges into a disused well some 80 feet deep, this disused well thereby forming a cesspool which never requires emptying. 300 yards from the hospital well were two houses connected to a cesspool which rarely required emptying. The Council's Sanitary Inspector subsequently arranged for these two houses to be connected to the sewer and the cesspool closed.

The Council's Engineer had the sewer running along the road outside the hospital examined and so far as could be ascertained this sewer was in a satisfactory condition.

The survey of the hospital's drains was stopped in 1954 as the defects being exposed made it clear that the expense of repair was going to be so large that it was clearly more economical for the hospital to go over to a mains water supply rather than repair the hospital drainage system.

The hospital went over to the main supply in September, 1954 and this solved the hospital's water problem. However, it left us with the knowledge that a large expanse of defective drainage was continuing to allow sewage to enter the chalk in the vicinity of the hospital and that other water supplies might thereby be exposed to the risk of pollution.

Watercress Beds. These beds had been in production, I am told, since 1890. They are about 400 yards long, 25 yards wide at the head and 10 yards wide at the outlet. Adjacent is a lake formed by the filling up with water of a disused gravel pit. 30 yards from the bank of the lower third of the beds is a row of pig-sties housing a dozen pigs and a poultry-run with about 25 fowls. Near the outlet of the beds is a dwelling-house with a leaking cesspool.

The water supply to these beds was from three artesian tube wells driven 50 feet down into the ground. These tube wells were 8" in diameter and maintained a steady flow of water which projected itself to a height of about 6" from the opening. Since the survey of these beds was concluded, the supply from these artesian wells has ceased and the beds have dried up. Analyses have shown that the water which spouted from the artesian wells was wholesome water of excellent quality but as the water flowed down the beds it became progressively "polluted" with faecal B.coli as will be seen from the bacteriological reports in Appendix III.

Attention was drawn to the beds in 1951 when watercress on sale in another local authority area was there submitted for bacteriological examination and faecal B.coli were found present. Concern was expressed regarding this presumed pollution.

It was considered unlikely that the faecal B.coli had originated from the leaking cesspool as the cesspool was in proximity to the water only as it left the beds and that the artesian supply was not polluted by the cesspool was shown by the consistent excellent quality of this supply. To be brief, there appeared to be only one source of the faecal B.coli, namely the wild life of the vicinity.

There is no significant reason for regarding watercress as any more dangerous for being cultivated in water polluted by wild life than for regarding radishes, celery, lettuce and spring onions as dangerous for being cultivated on ground open to similar pollution. We should be able to rely on the public to wash their watercress with wholesome water just as they wash radishes, celery, etc.

At our request the proprietor refrained from cultivating the lower third of the watercress beds and thereby ruled out any possibility of the pollution of the water there by the cesspool and by domestic animals. He also agreed to douche all watercress with wholesome water after harvesting. These arrangements appear to have been satisfactory in practice though no doubt faecal B.coli continued to be present on the watercress.

FOOD.

Milk. The reason for the drop in the number of dairies registered from previous years is the fact that several dairies have changed their practice of bottling on the premises to one of receiving the milk for sale already bottled.

The prescribed test for the cleanliness of tuberculin-tested milk (methylene blue test) is an exacting one. Two producers in this district were responsible for the failure of 4 samples to pass the prescribed test. A breakdown in the boiler had interfered with sterilisation at one producer's premises and at the other there had been trouble with the refrigeration plant. These failures were discussed personally with the Milk Production Officer.

Ice Cream. For the first time, all the samples of ice-cream gave a Grade I result to the methylene blue test. This, of course, reflects the monotonously clean product which ice-cream now is as a result of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-1952.

Meat. In mid-1954 private slaughtering was resumed after many years of centralisation and the immense increase which this meant in the work of the Council's Sanitary Inspectors in meat inspection is shown by the increase in carcases inspected from 84 in 1953 to 1,622 in 1954. Several questions of practice arose with the increase in meat inspection and these were discussed with a technical officer of the Ministry of Food. The Consultant Pathologist to the Dartford Group of Hospitals kindly examined the specimens of interest and his reports were made available to the Divisional Veterinary Officer who searched for the source of infection where infective conditions were diagnosed.

CLEAN AIR. Measurements of atmospheric pollution are omitted from this report as they and those of neighbouring districts are detailed and discussed in the annual report of the Thames-side Advisory Committee.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. I wish to emphasise that all the routine time-consuming work of housing, water, drainage and food inspection is done by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors.

My thanks are due to numerous colleagues in providing information for this report.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support and the Staff of this Department for their willing co-operation.

I am, Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I - SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,113
Population (Registrar-General's estimated mid-year home population) 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	39,110
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,253
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	37,905
Number of inhabited houses (31.3.55, according to Rate Books)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,500
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£275,180
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 1,060

The 1954 comparability factor for births, governed by the proportion of women aged 18-44 years, is 1.00. The factor for deaths, governed by the proportion of all age groups, is 0.99. The crude birth or death rate of any local area multiplied by its comparability factor is said to make it comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with any other local area which has been adjusted by its own comparability factor.

The following figures may act as indicators of social conditions for 1954 :-

Cases dealt with by N.S.P.C.C. :-

Neglect	...	...	...	34
Ill treatment	...	...	...	4
Advice sought	...	...	...	7
Moral danger	...	...	...	5
Children affected	...	...	...	117
Prosecution for neglect	...	...	...	1

Unemployed on December 31st, 1954 (Dartford Borough and Dartford Rural) :-

Men	...	...	126
Women	...	...	70

Illegitimate birth rate 1954 :-

Dartford Rural District - 34 per thousand live births.

Illegitimate birth rate 1954 :-

England and Wales - 46 per thousand live births.

TABLE II - GENERAL VITAL STATISTICS, 1954.

Live Births

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	303	263	566
Illegitimate	...	...	13	7	20
			<u>316</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>586</u>

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated home population 15.0

Birth Rate adjusted by comparability factor 15.0

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated home population, England and Wales, 1954 15.2

Still Births

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	5	4	9
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-
			<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 15.1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births, England and Wales 23.4

Deaths from all causes

		Males	Females	Total
		216	200	416

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population 10.7

Death Rate adjusted by comparability factor 10.6

Death Rate adjusted for Stone House and Darent Park and by comparability factor 9.6

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated home population, England and Wales 11.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Rate per 1,000
Total Number. (Live & Still) Births.

Dartford Rural District 0. 0.

England and Wales 481. 0.7.

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age

	Males	Females	Total
--	-------	---------	-------

Legitimate under 4 weeks 7 2 9

Legitimate over 4 weeks 2 - 2

Illegitimate over 4 weeks - 1 1

<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>
----------	----------	-----------

Deaths per 1,000 live births of Infants under 1 year of age :-

Dartford Rural District 20.6

Dartford Borough 17.3

England and Wales 25.5

London and South-east Region 20.3

Harrow Urban District 16.7

TABLE III - CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SEX

Registrar General's Return.

	Male	Female	Persons
All causes	216	200	416
Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	5	10
Tuberculosis, other	1	1	2
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	1	1
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	2	7)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	18	6	24)
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	8	8)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2) 88
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	28	17	45)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2)
 Diabetes	-	1	1
 Vascular lesions of nervous system	23	24	47
Coronary disease, angina	34	19	53)
Hypertension with heart disease	4	4	8)
Other heart disease	29	51	80) 163
Other circulatory disease	10	12	22)
 Influenza	-	-	-)
Pneumonia	4	8	12)
Bronchitis	8	5	13) 29
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	2	4)
 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	5	6
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	2	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	24	19	43
Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3
All other accidents	5	5	10
Suicide	2	-	2
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-

TABLE IV - CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO AGE

TOTAL FOR 1954

	All Ages	Under 4 wks.	4 wks. to 1 yr.	1 - 2	2 - 5	5 - 15	15- 25	25- 35	35- 45	45- 55	55- 65	65- 75	75 +
All Causes	416	9	3	-	-	2	5	6	19	36	69	103	164
Tuberculosis, respiratory	10							1	1	3	3	2	
Tuberculosis, other	2							1				1	
Syphilitic disease	1									1			
Diphtheria													
Whooping Cough													
Meningococcal infection	1		1										
Acute Poliomyelitis													
Measles													
Other infective and parasitic diseases		1											1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7									1	2	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	24									1	2	10	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	8									3	1		4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2										1	1	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	45						3		3	5	11	10	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2									1	1		
Diabetes	1												1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	47									1	4	22	20
Coronary disease, angina	53									1	3	13	15
Hypertension with heart disease	6										1	3	2
Other heart disease	80						1		2	1	3	3	17
Other circulatory disease	28								1	4	5	7	11
Influenza													
Pneumonia	12		1						1	1	1	2	5
Bronchitis	14										2	1	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	4										2	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4									1		1	2
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	2												2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	6										3	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2												2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion													
Congenital malformations	4	2	1							1			
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	36	7								3	3	8	4
Motor vehicle accidents	3								1		1	1	1
All other accidents	9									1	2	1	5
Suicide	2									2			
Homicide and operations of war													

TABLE V - CAUSES OF DEATH

Ages 75 and over

	TOTAL MALE AND FEMALE	MALE						FEMALE						TOTAL FEMALES
		75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	90 - 94	95 - 99	TOTAL MALES	75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	90 - 94	95 - 99		
All Causes	164	31	19	15	8	73	34	30	19	6	2	91		
Tuberculosis, respiratory														
Tuberculosis, other														
Syphilitic disease														
Acute Poliomyelitis														
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1		1			1								
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2		1			1		1					1	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1	1			2								
Malignant neoplasm, breast	4							2	1	1			4	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus														
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	13	2	3	2	1	8	2	1	2				5	
Leukaemia, aleukaemia														
Diabetes														
Vascular lesions of nervous system	20	9	1	1	1	12	3	2	3				8	
Coronary disease, angina	21	5	2	3	1	11	5	4	1				10	
Hypertension with heart disease	2							1		1			2	
Other heart disease	53	8	3	3	3	17	10	14	6	4	2	36		
Other circulatory disease	11	2	3	2		7	2	1		1			4	
Influenza														
Pneumonia	5			1		1	2	1	1				4	
Bronchitis	7	1	1				2	4		1			5	
Other diseases of respiratory system	1								1				1	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1				1			1				1	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	1		1		2								
Nephritis, nephrosis														
Hyperplasia of prostate	2			1	1	2								
Congenital malformations														
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	10	1	2	1	1	5	2	1	1	1			5	
Motor vehicle accidents	1		1			1								
All other accidents	5						1	2	2				5	
Suicide														

TABLE VI - CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SOCIAL CLASS

	All Classes	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
MALES:													
All causes	216	10	33	-	6	8	2	74	20	13	13	22	15
Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis, other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	18	-	2	-	1	1	-	8	-	-	2	4	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	28	1	5	-	1	3	-	10	3	1	2	-	2
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	22	1	4	-	-	1	1	8	3	1	1	1	1
Coronary disease, angina	35	2	7	-	1	-	1	13	4	1	1	3	2
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other heart disease	28	3	5	-	-	1	-	7	5	2	1	2	2
Other circulatory disease	16	1	-	-	1	-	-	7	1	1	-	3	2
Pneumonia	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Bronchitis	8	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	2	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Congenital malformations	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	19	1	4	-	-	1	-	6	1	-	3	2	1
Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-
Suicide	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
FEMALES:													
All causes	200	6	33	2	6	4	-	54	30	16	5	28	16
Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
Tuberculosis, other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	1	1	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	17	-	4	-	2	-	-	3	2	1	1	2	2
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	1	4	-	-	-	-	8	6	1	-	5	-
Coronary disease, angina	18	-	6	-	-	1	-	6	3	-	-	1	1
Hypertension with heart disease	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-
Other heart disease	52	2	7	1	2	2	-	15	6	4	2	5	6
Other circulatory disease	12	1	1	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	-	3	-
Pneumonia	7	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	1
Bronchitis	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	17	-	2	-	-	1	-	4	1	2	-	4	3
All other accidents	5	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-

TABLE VII - PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) during 1954 :-

Disease General Population	Total	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65+
Scarlet Fever	24	-	3	7	13	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough	171	13	34	52	67	4	-	1	-
Pneumonia	24	3	3	2	3	1	-	2	10
Poliomyelitis:									
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Scabies	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Meningococcal infection	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Food poisoning	4	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Measles	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Puerperal pyrexia	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	233	17	41	64	84	9	4	4	10

Residential Institutions of more than 100 population

Pneumonia	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Food poisoning	9	1	-	-	1	-	-	9	-
	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1
	247	17	41	64	84	9	13	5	14

Whooping Cough 1954 :-

	Ash	Darenth	Eynsford	Farningham	Fawkham	Horton Kirby	Longfield	Southfleet	Stone	Sutton-at-Hone	West Kingsdown	Wilmington	Total
January	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	4
February	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
March	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	4
April	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
May	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
June	2	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
July	-	1	1	1	4	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	8
August	-	15	-	-	-	-	6	2	-	-	-	-	17
September	-	6	-	-	-	-	7	7	6	-	-	-	26
October	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	5	-	1	1	10
November	-	-	5	-	24	-	1	1	20	-	-	-	51
December	-	-	10	-	2	-	-	28	-	1	1	1	41
TOTALS:	3	25	16	1	4	28	5	14	10	60	1	4	171

TABLE VII Continued

Pneumonia 1954 :-

Ash	...	...	...	1
Darenth	...	...	...	4
Horton Kirby	...	...	...	1
Southfleet	...	...	...	7
Stone	...	...	...	7
Sutton-at-Hone	...	...	...	3
Wilmington	...	...	...	<u>1</u>
				<u><u>24</u></u>

Poliomyelitis 1954 :-
(Non-paralytic)

Sutton-at-Hone	...	...	1
Darenth	...	...	<u>1</u>
			<u><u>2</u></u>

Non-notifiable diseases during 1954 :-

The following non-notifiable diseases were reported from the schools -

Chicken pox	...	...	34
Mumps	...	...	7
German measles	...	...	3

Tuberculosis :-

The following table gives details of the cases notified and deaths occurring during the year -

Age periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	6	3	1	2	1	-	-	1
35 - 45	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	5	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	-
TOTALS:	20	7	2	3	6	4	1	1

6 of the above new cases notified were from an Institution in the Rural District.

The following is a statement of the number of cases on the Register at the beginning and end of the year :-

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Number on Register at end of 1953	201	127	27	28	383
Number on Register at end of 1954	214	135	29	30	408

TABLE VIII - DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

From the figures supplied by the County Medical Officer the following are derived :-

INOCULATIONS DONE EACH YEAR :

	Age at 31st December	Primary Inoculations done in the year	Re-inforcing Inoculations done in the year
1954	0 - 4 years	395	21
	5 - 14 years	49	275
1953	0 - 4 years	363	23
	5 - 14 years	79	367
1952	0 - 4 years	431	16
	5 - 14 years	73	351
1951	0 - 4 years	368	14
	5 - 14 years	98	500
1950	0 - 4 years	356	14
	5 - 14 years	39	165

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH EFFECTIVE IMMUNITY :

Immunisation is effective for about five years and then requires to be re-inforced. Hence -

December 31st	Age Group	Children immunised at any time in their life	Children immunised in the last 5 years	Population Census 1951 *	Percentage Children immune
1954	0 - 4 years	1,501	1,501	3,175	47%
	5 - 14 years	3,547	2,101	5,319	40%
	0 - 14 years	5,048	3,602	8,494	42%
1953	0 - 4 years	1,492	1,492	3,175	47%
	5 - 14 years	3,918	1,801	5,319	34%
	0 - 14 years	5,410	3,292	8,494	39%

* In view of the changing birth rate and development of the district, these population figures are becoming unreliable.

INFANT IMMUNISATION RATE :

Percentage of those born in a given year who were immunised in that year or the next -

Year of birth	Number of live births	Year immunised	Number immunised	%	Total	%
1954	586	1954	41	7	?	?
		1955	?	?		
1953	539	1953	34	6	334	62
		1954	300	56		
1952	514	1952	47	9	332	65
		1953	285	56		
1951	576	1951	42	7	345	60
		1952	303	53		
1950	454	1950	31	6	301	56
		1951	270	50		

Immunisation by age at date of immunisation :

	Number of live births	Number under 1 year of age immunised	Percentage of births of previous year
1954	586	251	44
1953	539		

TABLE IX - SMALLPOX VACCINATION

NUMBERS VACCINATED :

	Age at December 31st		
	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14
1954			
Vaccinated	216	110	28
Revaccinated	-	2	8
1953			
Vaccinated	169	119	19
Revaccinated	-	1	3
1952			
Vaccinated	163	118	18
Revaccinated	-	3	18
1951			
Vaccinated	192	118	38
Revaccinated	-	3	16
1950			
Vaccinated	154	101	17
Revaccinated	-	4	6

INFANT VACCINATION RATE :

Percentage of those born in a given year who were vaccinated in that year or the next

Year of Birth	Number of live births	Year vaccinated	Number vaccinated	%	Total	%
1954	586	1954	216	37	?	?
		1955	?	?		
1953	539	1953	169	32	269	50
		1954	100	19		
1952	514	1952	163	32	271	53
		1953	108	21		
1951	576	1951	192	33	303	53
		1952	111	19		

Vaccination by age at date of vaccination -

Number of live births	Number vaccinated by age at date of vaccination			Percentage of births of those vaccinated under one year
	Under 1	1-4	5-14	
1954	309	16	32	53%
1953	273	19	14	50%
1952	272	13	15	53%

PROPORTION OF VACCINATIONS DONE BY PRIVATE DOCTORS AND CLINICS :

The analysis for 1954 is as follows -

Age Group	Vaccinated:		Revaccinated:	
	Private Doctors	Clinics	Private Doctors	Clinics
Under 1	259	50	-	-
1 - 4	14	2	1	-
5 - 14	31	1	8	1
Total under 15:	<u>304</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>

APPENDIX I - HOUSING

NEW HOUSES: The following dwellings have been completed in the last five years :-

		1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
By Dartford Rural District Council		251	174	178	312	224
By Dartford Borough Council	...	69	31	-	-	35
By private enterprise	...	<u>33</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>314</u>
		<u>353</u>	<u>223</u>	<u>231</u>	<u>439</u>	<u>573</u>

HOUSING PROVIDED BY COUNCIL: The effective waiting list of housing applicants at the end of March, 1955, numbered 1081 (exclusive of engaged couples), the total registered applications for the year being 1465. During the year ended March, 1955, 270 families were rehoused by the Council -

Families Re-housed:

Neighbourhood	April-March 1952-53	April-March 1953-54	April-March 1954-55
Ridley	...	-	-
Ash	...	2	5
Fawkham	...	2	3
Hartley	...	3	1
West Kingsdown	...	4	12
Longfield	...	2	12
Southfleet	...	2	9
Betsham	...	1	-
Bean	...	1	1
Darenth	...	15	12
Stone	...	18	40
Eynsford	...	4	3
Farningham	...	1	7
Horton Kirby	...	4	12
South Darenth	...	2	9
Sutton-at-Hone	...	3	17
Lullingstone	...	3	-
Swanley	...	66	80
Crockenhill	...	13	14
Hextable	...	12	16
Wilmington	...	36	33
Hawley	...	4	4
Outside Rural District	<u>20</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>33</u>
	<u>218</u>	<u>320</u>	<u>270</u>

139 Council tenants were moved to accommodation more suitable to their requirements.

IMPROVEMENTS: In 1954, 15 applications were received for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, and grants totalling £3,997 were approved. The work, however, was not finished until 1955.

REPAIRS: 168 dwellings were inspected by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors.

388 dwellings were rendered fit as a result of informal action.

12 notices were served under the Public Health Act. 6 were complied with by the owners and in 6 work was done by the Council in default.

1 notice was served under the Housing Act and complied with by the owner.

The following are the details of repairs initiated by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors :-

New W.C. pans provided	...	...	...	...	26
New W.C. seats provided	...	...	...	...	2
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	1
Main water supply provided	...	...	...	...	1
Water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	1
New water storage tanks provided	...	...	...	...	1
Cooking ranges, stoves, coppers and boilers repaired or renewed					6
Water waste preventors renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	18
Waste pipes to sinks, baths and lavatory basins repaired					2
Gutters and rainwater pipes renewed or repaired			...		21
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	38
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	9
External walls repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Damp-proof course inserted to walls	...	...	...	...	2
Dampness abated to walls by rendering, pointing, etc.			...		11
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	32
Doors renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Permanent ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	8
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	46
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	18
Yard paving provided	...	...	...	...	1
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	5
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	56
Offensive poultry houses removed	...	...	...	...	1

DEMOLITION OR CLOSURE OF HOUSES: The following houses were demolished as a result of action under the Housing Act :-

The Old Gills, South Darenth. (Order served 1953)

1, 2 and 3, Nightingale Place, Button Street, Farningham.
(Order served 1953)

12, 14, 16, 18 and 20, High Road, Wilmington.

Flint Cottage, Gills Farm, South Darenth.

Demolition Orders were served but the interval allowed before vacation was not up by the end of the year in regard to the following properties :-

Test Cottage, Mabel Road, Hextable.

14 and 16, Hook Green, Wilmington.

79, Invicta Road, Stone.

1 and 2, Portobello Cottages, School Lane, West Kingsdown.

Broomfield Cottage, London Road, Farningham.

Undertakings that the houses would not be used for human habitation were given in regard to the following :-

The Hut, Knoxfield, Darenth.

2, Ford Cottages, High Street, Eynsford.

1 and 2, Black Lion Cottages, Southfleet.

1, Ivy Cottages, Lees Yard, Crockenhill.

APPENDIX I Continued

Houses demolished by informal action :-

12 - 20, High Road, Wilmington.

Flint Cottage, South Darenth.

The persons displaced by the demolition or closure of the above houses were 45 adults, 31 children over ten years of age and 1 under ten.

CARAVANS: The following are the details of licences issued during the year under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 :-

Number of annual licences granted authorising the use of moveable dwellings (two holiday camps having a total of 80 moveable dwellings licensed by two licences)	108
--	---	-----

Number of licences authorising persons to allow land to be used as sites for moveable dwellings	...	Nil
---	-----	-----

Number of unlicensed caravans removed during the year	11
---	----

HOUSING PRIORITY ON MEDICAL GROUNDS: The following are the details of applications, supported by medical certificates, received during the year for priority in re-housing on medical grounds :-

	Applications received:	Some degree of priority recommended:	No priority recommended:
Tuberculosis	... 24	16	8
Other than tuberculosis	67	29	38
Total:	<u>91</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>46</u>

APPENDIX II - WATER

At the end of 1954, the position in regard to quality and quantity was approximately* as follows :-

Results :
Bacteriological Chemical

11,410 houses supplied by Metropolitan Water Board and Mid-Kent Water Co. Quantity good.			
Samples taken of water going into supply by M.K.W.C.			
Satisfactory ...	12	-	
Samples taken from household taps; M.W.B. and M.K.W.C.			
Satisfactory ...	12	-	
65 houses supplied by piped supply from well in Lullingstone Park, Parish of Lullingstone.			
Quantity satisfactory ...		No samples taken.	
9 houses supplied by piped supply from one well at Sutton House, Clement Street, Parish of Sutton.			
Quantity satisfactory.			
Samples satisfactory ...	1	-	
14 houses supplied by pump or bucket from adjacent wells. Quantity mostly satisfactory.			
Samples satisfactory ...	5	-	
Samples unsatisfactory ...	2	2	
2 houses supplied by rainwater.			
Quantity unsatisfactory ...		No samples taken.	

11,500 Total houses.

2 hospitals supplied by well.			
Quantity satisfactory ...			
Samples satisfactory ...	68	1	
Samples unsatisfactory ...	5	-	
1 hospital supplied by M.W.B.			
Quantity satisfactory			
Samples satisfactory ...	2	1	
2 factories supplied by well.			
Quantity satisfactory ...		No samples taken.	
3 swimming baths (M.K.W.C.) open to public.			
Samples satisfactory ...	8	-	
Samples unsatisfactory ...	1	-	
3 swimming baths (M.W.B.) not open to public.			
...		No samples taken.	

* "Approximately" because distribution of houses, etc., is that on 31.3.55., and results of analysis do not lend themselves into a crude classification into satisfactory and unsatisfactory.

APPENDIX II Continued

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES OF WATER IN WATERCRESS BEDS, SOUTH DARENTH:

	Heads of Beds				Centre of Beds				Ends of Beds					
	3.12. 51.	7.2. 52.	21.5. 52.	11.9. 52.	29.11. 54.	3.12. 51.	7.2. 52.	21.5. 52.	11.9. 52.	29.11. 54.	3.12. 51.	7.2. 52.	21.5. 52.	11.9. 52.
Date sample taken:														
No. of organisms per ml.														
capable of growth on Agar at 37°C:	0	0	0	670	7	5	16	78	470	164	8	85	1077	610
Ditto at 22°C	0	0	2	11000	0	780	350	3170	10400	310	52	3170	6847	4600
Probable No. of B.coli (presumptive) per 100 ml.	0	0	0	180+	0	50	900	25	180+	1800+	80	900	90	1800+
Probable No. of "Faecal" B.coli per 100 ml.	0	0	0	0	0	13	3	25	25	1	80	110	90	0
Samples submitted for chemical analysis were also examined bacteriologically and gave the following results :-														
No. of organisms per ml. capable of growth on Agar at 37°C	8	1200	800						67	1620	300	90	400	150
Ditto at 22°C	16	2150	5000						7500	19000	5000	11500	12500	2200
Probable No. of B.coli (presumptive) per 100 ml.	0	0	180+						11	11	180+	90	90	180+
Probable No. of "Faecal" B.coli per 100 ml.	0	0	-						1	11	25	17	50	50

* On this date the artesian well supply was exceptionally small in amount.

APPENDIX III - DRAINAGE

An account of the drainage and sewerage of this district is given in our previous reports.

The sewer was extended 627 feet along Lower Road, Hextable so that the drainage to two houses could be connected thereto at a total cost of £225. There was also an extension of this sewer at top Dartford Road by 1,000 feet to connect dwellings with the sewer at a cost of £1,320.

The sewer was extended at Eynsford Rise, Glebe Place and Manse Estate at a cost of £1,077.

New buildings accounted for 500 dwellings being connected to the sewer and 73 to cesspools.

Two existing buildings were connected to the sewer and their cesspools closed at a cost of £55. Three existing buildings were provided with cesspool drainage and their pail-closets discarded. In one case, £48. was contributed to the cost by the Council under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Under Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936 the defective combined drain of two dwellings was repaired and repairs were effected to drains of 4 other dwellings.

The effluent from Stone Outfall Works was sampled for chemical analysis by the County Analyst on three occasions and on two of these samples were reported as unsatisfactory. Of three samples taken by the Port of London Authority, two were unsatisfactory.

Apart from the above, the following are the details of work initiated by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors during 1954 :-

Cesspools reconstructed	...	3
Cesspools repaired	...	1
Drainage reconstructed	...	8
Drains repaired	...	14
Drains cleansed	...	72
Soakaways provided for surface water drainage	...	2

At the end of the year, the sanitary accommodation and drainage was approximately as follows :-

Buildings with W.C.'s discharging into drainage system ... 9,009

Buildings with W.C.'s discharging into septic tanks ... 157

Buildings with W.C.'s discharging into cesspools ... 2,279 (1,100 estimated to be leaking)

Buildings provided with pail closets ... 51

Buildings provided with privies 4

Total: 11,500

MILK: Regulations require this Council to register dairies not being dairy farms and distributors, i.e. dairymen other than dairy farmers. The Council also have the duty to grant, or refuse to grant, dealer's licences to distributors authorising the use of a special designation in relation to milk sold from premises in this district. Those holding dealers' licences for trade from premises outside this district can be granted supplementary licences authorising them to use a designation in relation to milk sold in this district.

The following are the figures for registrations and licences during recent years :-

		1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Dairies registered	...	8	8	8	6	2
Distributors registered	...	21	24	28	34	37
Distributors of undesignated milk		5	4	2	1	1
Dealers' licences for :-						
Tuberculin tested milk	...	10	17	19	17	19
Pasteurised milk	...	17	19	19	21	21
Sterilised milk	...	6	9	12	25	31
Supplementary licences for :-						
Tuberculin tested milk	...	5	5	7	7	8
Pasteurised milk	...	5	5	6	6	6
Sterilised milk	...	3	3	3	6	9
Number of visits to dairy premises by Council's Sanitary Inspectors		128	52	94	61	53

Sampling for designation or infection tests.

28 samples were submitted to the County Laboratory

Grade of Milk	Samples taken for designation test	Samples unsatisfactory	Samples taken for guinea pig tuberculosis test	Samples unsatisfactory
Tuberculin tested (Pasteurised)	4	-	-	-
Tuberculin tested	8	4	4	-
Pasteurised	8	-	3	-
Sterilised	2	-	-	-
Undesignated	-	-	1	-
Totals:	20	2	8	-

Sampling for Adulteration.

59 samples of milk were taken by the County Sampling Officers in Dartford Rural District and report, kindly supplied by the County Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures, shows that all these samples were genuine with the exception of the following :-

Milk, T.T. Fat 2.65%. Solids not fat 9.2%. Deficient 11.7% minimum amount of fat.

A series of 19 milk samples from the producer was taken over a period and all showed 'natural' fat deficiencies. The standard of the milk has now improved and the most recent samples complied with the requirements.

APPENDIX IV Continued

ICE-CREAM: The position regarding the registration of premises and sampling for cleanliness by the methylene blue test during recent years up to the end of 1954 is as follows :-

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Premises registered for -						
Sale	63	69	68	71	81	96
Manufacture	8	-	3	-	-	-
Samples -						
Grade I ...	12 26%	13 61%	56 74%	63 74%	9 90%	15 100%
" II ...	17 36%	3 15%	12 16%	16 19%	1 10%	- -
" III ...	2 4%	4 19%	5 7%	4 5%	- -	- -
" IV ...	16 34%	1 5%	2 3%	2 2%	- -	- -
Total:	47 100%	21 100%	75 100%	85 100%	10 100%	15 100%

3 samples of ice-cream taken by the County Sampling Officers were reported on as genuine, i.e. had a fat content of not less than 5% fat, 10% sugar not derived from milk and 7.5% milk solids other than fat.

MEAT: The number of slaughtermen licensed in 1954 was ... 21
The number of slaughterhouses licensed in 1954 was ... 6

The following are the details regarding meat inspection by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors :-

Summary of Animals killed and carcases inspected -

Particulars	Cattle including cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Number killed	231	178	416	797
Number inspected	231	178	416	797
(i) All diseases except tuberculosis -				
Whole carcase condemned	-	1	-	3
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	19	1	1	5
Percentage of number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis	8%	1%	0.2%	1%
(ii) Tuberculosis only -				
Whole carcase condemned	2	-	-	1
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	10	-	-	3
Percentage of number inspected	5%	-	-	0.5%

The following items were rejected :-

Diseases other than tuberculosis:

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
20 lbs. - bruising	1 carcase - fevered flesh due to
378 lbs. - bone taint	pneumonia
84 lbs. - inflammation of pleura and peritoneum	1 carcase - emaciation due to pericarditis
15 lbs. - abscesses	1 carcase - swine erysipelas
22 lbs. - liver - abscesses	1 pluck - erysipelas
4 lbs. - liver - flukes	1 Heart and lungs - swine erysipelas
3 livers-abscesses	1 Heart and
1 pluck -abscesses	lungs - pericarditis and pleurisy
4 livers-flukes	
1 cow's udder - mastitis	
1 cow's liver - cloudy swelling	
1 heart and lungs - pericarditis	

Calves

1 carcase - joint ill	<u>Sheep</u>
1 liver - cavernous haemangioma	6 lbs. lamb - abscesses

Tuberculosis:

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
2 carcases	1 carcase
6 plucks	3 heads
3 livers	
2 mesentery	
1 heart and lungs	

From the above the following were submitted to the hospital laboratory for diagnosis :-

<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Film</u>	<u>Culture</u>	<u>Morbid Anatomy</u>
<u>Pigs</u>			
Neck abscess	Neg.		
Gen.tuberculosis-			
a) lung	Neg.)	Pos. (Bovine type	
b) gland	Pos.)	isolated after guinea pig inoculation)	
Sub-maxillary lymph gland	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.
Sub-maxillary lymph gland	Neg.	Neg.	

Cattle

Gen.tuberculosis-			
lungs	Pos.	Pos. (Bovine type)	Pos.
lung lymph gland			Pos.
lung lymph gland	Neg.	Pos.	
liver and glands	Pos.	Pos.	
mesenteric gland	Pos.	Pos.	
liver and gland	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
paratid lymph gland	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
lung gland	Neg.	Neg.	Pos.
retropharyngeal gland	Pos.	Pos.	Pos.
mediastinal lymph node	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.
liver lymph node	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.

APPENDIX IV Continued

Other than tuberculosis:

Pigs

Pus from heart of pig with
swine erysipelas

Erysipelothrix Rhusiopathiae
isolated.

Cattle

Cyst in masseter muscle

Simple smooth-walled cyst.
No parasites seen.

The following items were surrendered from shops and canteens :-

40 lbs. pork.
5 lbs. pork trimmings.
102 lbs. imported beef.
6 lbs. tinned jellied veal.
12 lbs. imported tinned ham.
2 lbs. tinned Irish stew.
18 lbs. corned beef.
60 lbs. frozen rabbits.
13 lbs. pork sausages.
2 lbs. beef sausages.
11 lbs. cooked ham.
2 lbs. tinned pork luncheon meat.
1 lb. tinned minced loaf.
1 lb. tinned stewed steak.
228 rabbits.

OTHER FOODS: Other than meat, the following were surrendered from shops and canteens as unfit for human consumption :-

Fruit and Vegetables	...	254 lbs.
Wet Fish	...	84 lbs.
Tinned Fish	...	2 lbs.
Tinned Milk	...	6 lbs.
Tinned Jam	...	1½ lbs.

The visits to food shops numbered 559.

In addition to the 59 samples of milk and 3 samples of ice-cream mentioned above, the County Sampling Officers took the following samples during 1954 :-

Drugs	...	...	10
Spirits	...	...	6
Other samples	...	...	<u>40</u>
			<u>56</u>

All these samples were genuine with the exception of the following :-

<u>Sample of:</u>	<u>Analysis:</u>	<u>Action taken:</u>
Wholewheat bread.	Contained part of a wasp.	Written caution issued.
Bread and butter.	The fat on the bread could not have contained more than 0.5% butter fat.	Prosecution. Fined £3. and £3.3s.0d. costs.
Devon butter.	Fat in centre 1.3%, coating 1.5%. No butter in small sample.	Old stock. Further sample unobtainable.

<u>Sample of:</u>	<u>Analysis:</u>	<u>Action taken:</u>
Oranges.	Thiourea 5 parts per million in juice.	Not possible to prove who actually imported the oranges.
Fresh orange drink.	Contained not more than 3.5% comminuted whole orange. Should be at least 5.5% comminuted whole orange. Vitamin C not detected. Not fresh.	
Fresh orange drink.	Apparently contained not more than 1% whole oranges. Not fresh; no Vitamin C.	Discussed with manufacturers. No further action.
Fresh orange drink.	Contained not more than 3.5% comminuted whole orange. Should be 5.5% Vitamin C not detected and is, therefore, not fresh.	
Patent barley.	No larvæ, no beetles, a few pieces of filamentous material.	Old stock. Withdrawn from sale.
Patent barley.	The 1 lb. tin contained approximately 48 dead beetles and 450 coleopterous larvæ, 1 dead moth and several pieces of filamentous material (cocoon?).	This was a private purchaser's sample. No legal action could be taken against either the retailer or the manufacturer. A warning letter was sent to the latter.

Food Preparation Premises:

During 1954, the following action has been initiated by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors -

- 1 butcher's shop - walls and ceiling tiled.
- 1 butcher's shop - walls made impervious.
- 2 sausage preparing rooms - walls and ceilings redecorated.
- 4 food preparing premises - hot water provided.
- 2 food preparing premises - roofs repaired.
- 1 bakehouse - walls replastered.
- 1 bakehouse - walls and ceiling redecorated.
- 1 bakehouse - ventilation improved.
- 11 food preparing premises - walls and ceilings redecorated.
- 1 food preparing premises - drains cleansed.
- 16 cafes - walls and ceilings redecorated.
- 6 cafes - new sinks provided.
- 2 cafes - walls redecorated to ladies' toilets.
- 3 cafes - new cooking stoves provided.
- 1 cafe - new refrigerator provided.
- 1 licensed premises - beer cellar limewashed and floor repaired.
- 1 licensed premises - new sink provided.

APPENDIX V - VERMIN

Rodents: The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Council's Rodent operator :-

Number of complaints received	...	137
Infestations found -		
Rats, major	...	10
Rats, minor	...	176
Mice, major	...	1
Mice, minor	...	32
Infestations found as a result of survey -		
Rats, major	...	-
Rats, minor	...	73
Mice, major	...	-
Mice, minor	...	6
Business premises treated	...	21
Private dwellings treated	...	195
Agricultural premises treated	...	4
Estimated kill, Ministry of Food formula,		
Rats	...	1,147
By traps or other means,-		
Rats	...	50
Mice	...	226
Dead bodies found -		
Rats	...	963
Mice	...	226
Sewer treatment -		
Manholes tested	...	111
Infestations found (Darenth Park)	...	1
Infestations treated	...	1

Other vermin:

Council houses disinfested of bed bugs	...	-
Private dwellings	...	11
Council houses disinfested of fleas	...	-
Private dwellings	...	8
Houses disinfested of ants	...	2
Houses disinfested of woodworm	...	1
Houses disinfested of beetles	...	1
Houses disinfested of swarms of flies	...	1
Houses disinfested of swarms of bees	...	3
Wasp nests destroyed	...	27

APPENDIX VI - FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

The following work was done by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors :-

1. Inspections under Part I, Factories Act, 1937 -

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	14	51	6	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	119	59	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises).	6	9	-	-
Total:	132	119	8	-

2. Particulars of Defects found -

Particulars	Number of Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Number of prosecutions
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1)	5	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec. 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4)	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for the sexes	1	1	-	-	-
(d) Other offences against the Act. (Excluding Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	8	8	-	1	-

APPENDIX VI Continued

2 new factories were added to the Register during the year.

2 factory premises were closed during the year.

3 factory premises changed ownership during the year.

6 new building works account for other premises in which the requirements of the Factory Act are enforced.

Outworkers -

(a) Total number of outworkers notified to the Council by firms in the Dartford Rural District under Section 110 (1c) Factories Act, 1937	...	...	40
(b) Total number of outworkers notified by Dartford Rural District Council to other Councils under Section 110 (2) Factories Act, 1937	...	...	Nil
(c) Total number of outworkers notified to Dartford Rural District Council by other Councils	...	...	10
(d) Total number of outworkers employed in Dartford Rural District	...	...	50
(e) Total number of inspections of workplaces under Section III (i) Factories Act, 1937	...	...	50
(f) Scheduled occupations followed by outworkers employed in premises in Dartford Rural District -			
Making wearing apparel	...	...	10
Making boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper, cardboard, chip or similar material	...	...	40

Shops -

There are 603 shops in the Rural Area. The total number of inspections during the year by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors of shops, other than food preparing premises, was 226. Action was taken to ensure that two shops were provided with heating to maintain a reasonable temperature, a sanitary convenience in one shop was repaired and the ceilings of two shops were repaired. Four shop-keepers were warned against selling restricted articles on Sundays.

APPENDIX VII - PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collection rounds have had to be revised by the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector from time to time during the year owing to the progress in building new houses.

A site for tipping refuse, together with fly ash, was made available by the Central Electricity Authority near Littlebrook Power Station and tipping began there in March, 1954.

The salvage collected during the year brought in a revenue of £665.

The sum expended on public cleansing in the financial year 1954 - 1955 was £29,000, i.e. £20,000 for refuse collection and £9,000 for cesspool emptying.

